

**House File 269 - Reprinted**

HOUSE FILE 269  
BY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER  
EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 53)

(As Amended and Passed by the House March 18, 2025)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act prohibiting certain requirements for students and  
2 faculty at regents institutions relating to diversity,  
3 equity, inclusion, and critical race theory and including  
4 applicability provisions.  
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act shall be known and may be  
2 cited as the "Freedom from Indoctrination Act".

3 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 261K.1 Definitions.

4 For purposes of this chapter, unless the context otherwise  
5 requires:

6 1. "Board" means the state board of regents.

7 2. "Constrain" means failure by a public institution of  
8 higher education during any semester to provide a sufficient  
9 number of open seats in alternative courses for a student to  
10 complete or progress toward completion of degree or program  
11 requirements.

12 3. "Diversity, equity, inclusion, and critical race  
13 theory-related content" means content that does one or more of  
14 the following:

15 a. Promotes the idea that racially neutral or colorblind  
16 laws, policies, or institutions perpetuate oppression;  
17 injustice; race-based privilege, including white supremacy  
18 or white privilege; or inequity by failing to actively  
19 differentiate on the basis of race, sex, or gender.

20 b. Promotes the differential treatment of any individual  
21 or groups of individuals based on race or ethnicity in  
22 contemporary American society.

23 c. Promotes the idea that a student is biased on account of  
24 the student's race or sex.

25 4. "Diversity, equity, inclusion, and critical race  
26 theory-related course" means any course for which the course  
27 description, course overview, course objectives, proposed  
28 student learning outcomes, written examinations, or written or  
29 oral assignments for which the student will receive a grade,  
30 includes diversity, equity, inclusion, and critical race  
31 theory-related content.

32 5. "Diversity, equity, inclusion, and critical race  
33 theory practices" means any requirement or guidance that  
34 a course instructor include or curate materials on the  
35 basis of the race, sex, or gender identity of an author or

1 authors. *"Diversity, equity, inclusion, and critical race*  
 2 *theory practices"* also means participating in any workshop,  
 3 training, seminar, or professional development on any  
 4 diversity, equity, inclusion, and critical race theory-related  
 5 content. *"Diversity, equity, inclusion, and critical race*  
 6 *theory practices"* does not include any programming explicitly  
 7 required by the public institution of higher education's legal  
 8 obligations to comply with Tit. IX of the Education Amendments  
 9 of 1972, as amended, the Americans with Disabilities Act, as  
 10 amended, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, as amended,  
 11 Tit. VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, or an applicable court  
 12 order.

13 6. *"Public institution of higher education"* means an  
 14 institution of higher learning governed by the board.

15 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 261K.2 Limitation on academic  
 16 requirements.

17 The board shall establish a policy that ensures that public  
 18 institutions of higher education do not require or constrain  
 19 students to enroll in a diversity, equity, inclusion, and  
 20 critical race theory-related course in order to satisfy the  
 21 requirements of any academic degree program, including general  
 22 education, major, minor, or certificate requirements, except  
 23 as provided in section 261K.4.

24 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 261K.3 Limitation on faculty  
 25 requirements.

26 A public institution of higher education, or any employee,  
 27 appointee, or committee acting on its behalf, shall not  
 28 require, solicit, or incentivize faculty of the institution  
 29 to apply or participate in diversity, equity, inclusion, and  
 30 critical race theory practices or include diversity, equity,  
 31 inclusion, and critical race theory-related content in any  
 32 course as a condition of approval, designation, or listing  
 33 as part of any academic degree program, including general  
 34 education; major, minor, or certificate requirements; or as a  
 35 condition of consideration in any faculty member's performance

1 assessment, promotion, tenure, salary adjustment, or any other  
2 incentive, except as provided in section 261K.4.

3     Sec. 5. NEW SECTION.   **261K.4 Exemptions.**

4     The board may grant an exemption from the requirements of  
5 sections 261K.2 and 261K.3 for the academic degree program  
6 requirements of any major, minor, certificate, or academic unit  
7 if the title thereof clearly establishes its course of study  
8 as primarily focused on racial, ethnic, or gender studies.  
9 However, a student shall not be required or constrained to  
10 enroll in any such program or course in order to satisfy the  
11 requirements of any other academic degree program, including  
12 general education requirements, or any other major, minor, or  
13 certificate requirements.

14     Sec. 6. NEW SECTION.   **261K.5 Enforcement.**

15     Any person may notify the attorney general of a potential  
16 violation of this chapter by a public institution of higher  
17 education. The attorney general may bring an action against a  
18 public institution of higher education for a writ of mandamus  
19 to compel the institution, or any employee, appointee, or  
20 committee acting on its behalf, to comply with this chapter.

21     Sec. 7. NEW SECTION.   **261K.6 Construction.**

22     This chapter shall not be construed to limit the academic  
23 freedom of any individual course instructor to direct the  
24 instruction within the instructor's own course or to limit the  
25 free discussion of ideas in a classroom setting.

26     Sec. 8. **APPLICABILITY.** This Act applies to academic years  
27 at public institutions of higher education, as defined in  
28 section 261K.1, as enacted by this Act, beginning on or after  
29 July 1, 2026.